

RIVISTA MILITARE
MULTI LANGUAGES

2022

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CLIMATE: MEN ARE FROM MARS, THE EARTH BELONGS TO VENUS

by Grammenos Mastrojeni

The Adelphi study centre has identified many conflicts due to climate causes.

In fact, a changing climate causes the suffering of the whole natural world and is linked to the dramatic loss of biodiversity.

Unpredictable climate makes it impossible to structure many human activities and can turn into a problem of economic security and human rights.

In practice, you will not be able to plan the harvest if you cannot count on certain rains or temperatures; but neither can you design a road without knowing whether a certain valley will be dry or flooded.

Due to such uncertainty, society becomes insecure, chaotic, conflicted, and unstable.

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THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE GREAT WAR

by Anna Maria Isastia

During the Great War, women took on a pivotal role in the Italian industrial system.

Men were no longer able to meet the large demand for production, and for the first time, female labour replaced them in activities which had previously been closed to women.

In a short time, the number of women hired in military establishments increased, many were employed in the war industry, others in the manufacture of military clothing.

In addition to playing an important role in the industrial sector, women were also a constant presence in the public sphere.

In the cities, they worked in offices and were indispensable, even if insulted and mocked, as tram drivers and postwomen.

It is just one of the many upheavals imposed by the war on the Italian society which until then had persisted in considering women as fragile, weak people, incapable of any kind of autonomy, completely subordinate to fathers and husbands.

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NATO AND CYBERSPACE

by Giovanni Gagliano

To be effective in different contexts of employment, the Army must constantly adapt to the inherent change of the threat. The transformation and evolution of its response capabilities must absolutely figure among its priorities. Italy, like other Western nations, considers NATO as one of the reference points for the evolution and development of land forces. With regard to cyberspace, in the last two decades the Alliance has started a process to understand the disruptive effect of cyberspace on all of its tasks in terms of risks but also opportunities. A full-spectrum analysis of the initiatives in this field are carried out in this article which provides an overview of the development of the NATO approach to cyberspace to achieve greater effectiveness in the Collective Defence. The continuous adaptation and evolution of processes and capabilities become essential. NATO is ready to seize these opportunities but also to address risks and vulnerabilities.

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COOPERATION BETWEEN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE

by Eugenio Fortunato

This case study is a positive example of successful inter-agency collaboration, which effectively allowed to combine different aspects of the national interest in a strategically important area such as the Sahel. The main idea behind the activities reviewed by this article is the synergy put in place between the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation through a network of collaborations which constitutes a tool capable of enhancing complementary needs.

The efforts of all the actors are thus directed towards the country's priority objectives. The consolidation of the procedures established in the case of Niger will make it possible to further improve the available tools. This will allow to overcome the inevitable difficulties related to the stabilization processes in some areas of the world. In these areas, Italy has the tools to permanently and not only occasionally play a leading role in protecting humanitarian, economic and political interests.

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COMMON SENSE, COMMON UNDERSTANDING

by Antonio Tagliatela

In the last few years, the process of normalization and standardization of military terminology has assumed a decisive role in NATO inter-force communication, highlighting that complete and effective national and international military interoperability can only be achieved through transparent and unambiguous communication. The article sheds light on the progress made in this process of terminological normalization and standardization, starting from its recent history to the present day, and provides sector stakeholders with updated information and the regulatory tools necessary to approach a topical issue that, especially in Italy, is still little debated.

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A NECESSITY TURNED INTO AN OPPORTUNITY

by Vincenzo Giudice

Illustrating what contribution the Italian Army, represented by the First Bersaglieri Regiment, has provided for the benefit of the entire NATO within the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force - Land (VJTF-L) brigade deployed in 2020-2022 is the purpose of this article. In particular, after briefly examining the regulatory references which explain why today this contingent represents one of the main focuses of the Alliance, the author describes the two multinational exercises, Steadfast Defender 21 and Saber Guardian 21, which took place at the Joint National Training Centre in Cincu (Romania) in May - June 2021. Both exercises were organized to integrate the technical-tactical procedures between the English, Spanish, Turkish, Polish, Romanian, US, Montenegrin, and Italian armies. They aimed at increasing the interoperability of units of different nationalities. In this context, the heavy Battle Group configuration of the First Regiment played the role of the main manoeuvring unit within the entire international contingent, taking part in what was in fact the largest joint and combined training held during the epidemiological emergency. In a delicate historical period and in a place whose geographical position has a great geopolitical weight, the Bersaglieri of the First Regiment have further qualified their technical-professional preparation, strengthening the feeling of camaraderie with fellow soldiers of different flags and, above all, giving tangible proof of being able to respond promptly if the Alliance is attacked.

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TWENTY YEARS OF CIVIL-MILITARY COOPERATION

by Mattia Zuzzi

The Multinational CIMIC Group (MNCG) is celebrating 20 years since its foundation.

In this period of time, the Group has grown and consolidated as an operational, educational, and training reality not only at a national level but also in the broader context of NATO and other international organizations, within which MNCG is synonymous with effectiveness and capability.

This article outlines the capabilities developed at an operational and training level in the elapsed period, as well as the evolutionary lines for the next 15-20 years, supported by the coordinating committee of the 6 participating nations.

This insight is presented to the reader from the perspective of the Commander, who has been part of the unit since its inception and is now tracing its future development.

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IF THE MEDICAL OFFICER IS A WOMAN

by Paola Pucci

Captain Laura Creti is a medical officer. She began working at the Montebello Lancers regiment in 2019, and today this 29-year-old young woman is a point of reference for the 800 soldiers of the regiment, that includes 85 women. In the interview, she talks about her years of work in a highly operational regiment and her relationship with military personnel, always marked by the utmost respect and kindness, with a further peculiarity represented by her deep understanding female sensibilities.

Captain Creti describes her daily commitment, in routine duties as well as in emergencies, focusing on the difficult period of the pandemic. She was employed in an overseas mission in Lebanon when the explosion at the port of Beirut occurred, and she remembers her intervention in that circumstance.

"I am aware that being a medical officer implies carrying out a mission in the mission, where the Hippocratic oath is joined by the oath of loyalty to the Fatherland" - underlines Captain Creti, whose next goal is the specialization in Cardiology, a long cherished dream consistent with her inclination to "take to heart" every single case.





12 | THE ORIGIN OF THE ARMY

by Pierluigi Bussi

On 28 February 2022, the conference entitled "The Origin of the Army" was held at the "Central Military Library" of Palazzo Esercito, organised by the 5th General Affairs Division of the Army General Staff. The event was attended by many military authorities and scholars who discussed on the subject of the Italian Army's origin. In fact, in 1659 the Guards Regiment was created in the Duchy of Savoy, the first Regulation Unit whose tradition is inherited today by the Grenadiers.

everyone's business, it is participation in the life and destiny of the city. A free people is also a warrior people. Machiavelli goes against the idea of being subordinated to mercenary militias, treacherous forces destroying the spirit of community and attachment to civil life. The mass conscription of the French Revolution and compulsory military service are part of his logic of an armed and disciplined life. The Art Of War is a fundamental stage: although half a millennium of history has passed since it was written and it is light-years away from us in terms of sensitivity and technology of reference, it is certainly a modern work in its very high evaluation of man and soldier. For Machiavelli, it is not just a profession, but above all a serious and thoughtful interpretation of associated life, its risks, and its possible greatness.

14 | 24 KILOMETRES

by Pierfrancesco Sampaolo

Brian Johnson and Roger Waters are two of the most important and well-known artists of all time in the world rock music scene. Both have a common root in Italy, at the time of the Second World War, since their fathers fought there. In Johnson's case, his mother Ester was Italian from Rocca di Papa, and she met her husband during the conflict, while in Waters' case, his father, Lieutenant Eric Fletcher Waters, was killed near the town of Aprilia. The artistic sentiment of the two musicians is definitely rooted in those events which took place just 24 kilometres away from each other, in our Country.

This article is an accurate excursus by Prof. Mola on Giovanni Giolitti and the main historical, national and international events, which involved the famous politician. From the origins of his activity, to the Great War, to the colonial wars, Giolitti had always played a key role in the moves of the Kingdom of Italy, which is why he is defined as one of the most important statesmen of our Country, which was in its very beginnings at the time. After World War II he was also appreciated by those (like Salvemini) who had controversially branded him "minister for the underworld" and by the communist Palmiro Togliatti, who opposed him to De Gasperi. A national monument was never dedicated to Giolitti: he was contented with the realization of the civil progress of the Italians in the age which was named after him.

30 | MACHIAVELLI

by Carlo Galli

The Art Of War by Niccolò Machiavelli, published in 1521, is undoubtedly a modern work in its evaluation of the human and moral factors in military life. The work stands out for Machiavelli's ability to identify war and how to fight it. He is opposed to the ideas of his time distinguishing between the civil and military world. On the contrary, war is intrinsic to politics for him. In fact, the Florentine historian is opposed to the idea that peace and war are distinct, separate, and incompatible. Civil virtue is also military virtue. War is a people's affair, it is

34 | THE STATESMAN OF NEW ITALY

by Aldo A. Mola

The proliferation of civil wars has been surprisingly constant over the last century. After a brief historical introduction illustrating the con-

38 | THE ENIGMA OF THE CIVIL WAR

by Alessandro Colombo

texts in which civil wars usually take place, Professor Colombo analyses the different aspects of this type of conflict by unravelling the particularities which make them much less “local” than you can think and often “contagious” for neighbouring countries.

42 | WOMEN IN WAR

by Anna Maria Isastia

The Fascist regime, having a muscular vision of society and an education based on the motto “perfect fascist book and musket”, had progressively removed Italian women from many work activities, trying to make them docile wives and mothers of many children to give to the homeland.

Yet from this generation of young women, in the aftermath of the armistice of 8 September 1943, figures who made history emerged: partisan women and military women on both sides of a country in the midst of civil war. In the Social Republic of Salò, women auxiliaries of the SAF (female auxiliary service) were present in different military units with very diversified tasks, while the CAF (Assistance Female Corps) was set up in the Italian Army.

45 | THE BLACK SWAN

by Giuseppe Diotallevi

In this short article, the author uses the origins of the conflict in Ukraine as a key to investigate the cognitive processes that lead to distorting reality to the point of making us unable to understand it.

The conflict always remains behind the scenes and is never analysed. In reality, it is only a tool of intellectual speculation to reflect on why even the most careful observers are often misled when it comes to formulating a correct strategic forecast.

The temptation to simplify often accompanies an inductive approach. If these tools are not guided by an attentive critical spirit capable of making us resist, they can in fact be insufficient if not harmful to the point of generating a cognitive bias and with it the “dis-perception” of reality.

Hence, the need to include psychological sciences among the indispensable tools both for formulating a correct forecast and for reaching an adequate strategic decision.

49 | THE WORLD HAS CHANGED

by Antonio Ciabattini Leonardi

Biden Administration considers the European Union one of the closest allies of the US. Mr. Biden, like his predecessor, considers Russia and China implacable adversaries of the United States, but he committed to countering them by building an alliance of economically powerful democracies to face current tensions concerning Ukraine and compete with Beijing. His broad vision prompted him to reorganise the National Security Council, including new high-level positions in global health, democracy, human rights, emerging technologies, and climate. Mr. Biden's confidence in the value of international institutions led him to re-enter climate agreements, reopen the Iranian nuclear negotiation, and support the work of the United Nations and other global institutions.

51 | THE FUTURE IS NOW

by Antonio Pandolfi

It is an article reflecting on the ever-increasing role technology will have in military operations, and the consequent need for an individual proactive approach, even before an institutional one, to develop one's digital skills through continuous training.

Considering the current trends of technological acceleration, and the impact they will have in future conflicts, as well as the fact that these hypotheses are confirmed by numerous episodes of the Ukrainian conflict, the author tries to outline how the use of highly technological tools will not be an issue concerning just a few “technicians”, but it will concern the entire Army down to the minimum levels.

There is therefore the intention to raise awareness of the need for everyone to familiarise themselves with technology, which is sometimes considered of secondary interest, in order to be effectively part of a constantly evolving organisation.

The article is introduced by an incipit taken from a real episode, as narrated by a BBC podcast. Furthermore, at the beginning and at the end of the article there are two narrative parts, aimed at involving readers in the reasoning. At the beginning, the author makes a picture of the situation and leads the readers through a logical process that winds through the body of the article, providing them with a conclusion at the end.





12 | 150 YEARS IN THE SERVICE OF THE COUNTRY

by Niccolò Lucarelli

This article retraces and celebrates the history of the Military Geographical Institute, from its founding before the unification of Italy, to the present day. Tracing its history also means explaining the role played in building the country's identity, through its geographical representation and the technical role played alongside the Armed Forces engaged in various operational contexts. Finally, the article mentions the IGM's relevance as historical archives, with its Museum and its collection of geographical maps, as well as the extensive Library, which also houses precious publications of the past.

16 | DIFFERENT WORLDS, SIMILAR EXPERIENCES

by Pierfrancesco Sampaolo

Bruce Springsteen, an icon of world music, and Vladimir Vysockij, the famous Moscow singer-songwriter of the Soviet era, have a shared history of misunderstanding. The article tells the stories of the two well-known artists, born on opposite sides of the Iron Curtain but united in being misunderstood, the first for his best-known song, "Born in the USA", and the second for being considered an opponent by the regime although he was not.

38 | HOUSE BY HOUSE

by Andrea Spada and
Livia Cavallaro

From the siege of Troy to the use of drones, how have "Urban Operations" changed and what developments are foreseeable for the future? In history, during wars, cities were mostly besieged and not always fighting would take place inside them. From the Second World War, things began to change, evolving to see real metropolises as battle theatres. To find out a little more, we have interviewed Lt. Col. Livia Cavallaro, a leading expert in combat in this type of environment.

42 | THE STATESMAN OF NEW ITALY

by Anna Maria Isastia

The article addresses the issue of women in uniform during the work of the Constituent Assembly, a discussion that would be resumed, unlike other Western nations, a few decades later.

Starting from the binomial defence of the homeland in arms and the right to vote, the author analyses the interventions of some constituent fathers on whether it was appropriate to employ women in the Armed Forces and the attention paid by women present in the constituent assembly not to demean the female figure in the various determinations of the Constitution. The author compares different approaches to the problem.

Some Western nations had more liberal attitudes and abrupt decisions in this regard than the time it took in Italy to allow women to vote first and then serve the country in uniform.

46 | CULTURE AND MERITOCRACY AS OBSTACLES

by Walter Barbans

The Savoy army dispersed its fame and a tradition, which had matured over the centuries, after the not-so-brilliant episodes of Custoza and Novara, closing the first campaign for Italian independence with a defeat.

The backwardness of thought and the lack of attention to culture as an added value to mere courage and resoluteness characterized Piedmont's army of that period. In particular, except for Engineers Corps and Artillery officers, who were mocked for their culture and knowledge, other officers lacked sufficient tactical and strategic notions to conduct military actions.

Culture and knowledge were considered unnecessary and, at times, even harmful. With this mentality, Savoy Piedmont presented itself at the appointment with the First War for the Independence of Italy. And so, it was defeated.

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THE "FATHER" OF STRATEGIC BOMBING

by Eric Lehmann

In this detailed article, the author traces the essential stages of Giulio Douhet's strategic thinking and its evolution, its changes. Starting from his criticism of auxiliary aviation to the theorization of the command of the air and the perfect aircraft, the fighter plane, to strategic bombing, where he even theorized the possible disappearance of ground and navy forces, given the decisive dominance of the air forces.

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WHEN THE PAST TAKES YOU TO THE FUTURE

by Elio Cimraglia

"You don't always have to give up the past to enter the future", never were the words of the journalist and composer John Cage so actual when referring to the Tethered Gas Balloon for Parachutists Training (TGB - PT), better known as the Tethered Aerostat. Since last June 15, it has become a new asset on which the "FOLGORE" Brigade will rely – alongside the traditional Air Force and Army aircraft – to carry out airdrop training with static line.

The operating principle is the same as the old airships and hot-air balloons, supported by the thrust of helium, which, being lighter than air and non-flammable, floats according to Archimedes' principle, i.e. to the volume of air it can move. It can reach 350 meters in height and launch up to 12 paratroopers for each flight exercise.

The Tethered Balloon is a training gym which will optimise training times, increase airdrop activities (training and maintenance) at a meagre cost, and allow to carry out, based on preliminary studies/evaluations, about 15,000 jumps per year with the static line.

In addition, it will help to significantly reduce environmental (lower emissions) and noise pollution, forming part of the broader ecological protection project to which the Army is very attentive.

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GUARDIAN ANGELS

by Luisa Migliaccio

The button on a remote control had been enough to trigger the terrorists' explosive device. We are talking about a procedure that together with other equally lethal ones are defused every day by the meticulous and highly specialized work of the Reparto Supporto Operativo alla Guerra Elettronica (Operational Support for Electronic Warfare unit - reSOG), a unique Italian Army unit whose personnel, consisting in technicians and engineers, guarantees protection to men, vehicles and helicopters object of aggression in which it is necessary to defend against an unidentifiable enemy (asymmetric attacks). Subordinate to the Brigata Informazioni Tattiche (Army Tactical Information Brigade) and set up to neutralize above all the powerful, lethal RC-IEDs (Radio Controlled Improvised Explosive Devices), this unit, thanks to the expertise of its staff, is considered a flagship of the engineering of the Army. Intended to operate in the electromagnetic spectrum in which it is waves and frequencies and not rifles' triggers that put people's safety at risk.





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THE MAN IN BLACK

by Pierfrancesco Sampaolo

How important are experiences, difficulties and a tumultuous life for an artist? If in the midst of all this, there are the effects of the 1929 Great Depression and World War II, it is understandable why phenomena such as Johnny Cash, the man in black, arise. The American singer-songwriter crossed the musical scene of the second half of the 1960s, continuing to inspire generations with his songs. He has released over 60 albums and has sold over 90 million records worldwide. Perhaps, however, not everyone knows that his musical birth is partly due to the years spent in uniform in the US Air Force.

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THE BIRTH OF A CONTINGENT

by Andrea Giannasi

Unknown until a few years ago, the history of Brazil's participation in the Second World War emerges from the archives and memory. Twenty-five thousand soldiers from South America came to fight in Italy after a long, slow, and tiring preparation.

This article reconstructs how Brazil went from neutrality to deploying men on the Gothic Line to fight against the Germans between 1944 and 1945.

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EFFECTIVE DESPITE AGE

by Andrea Spada

The "Javelin" arrived in the US Army in 1996 to replace the old M47 Dragon wire-guided anti-tank missile launchers. Relying on automatic infrared guidance and the dual-HEAT warhead, it can neutralise the defence of modern reactive armour.

Here is the history and evolution of the weapon system, which for over 25 years has maintained great effectiveness in battle, as the current conflict in Eastern Europe demonstrates.

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MARCELLO SOLERI

by Giuseppe Cacciaguerra

Marcello Soleri, statesman and officer of the Alpini of exemplary integrity and righteousness, totally dedicated to the service of institutions and very attentive to social issues, is a prominent character for our national history and to be completely rediscovered. Growing up in a family who firmly believed in the Risorgimento ideals, he excelled in politics in many sectors, from economics to defence, and was always willing to serve his country. He was a liberal, and despite being a neutralist, at the outbreak of World War I, he volunteered for the front as an Officer of the Alpini, where he covered himself with honour, being seriously wounded and earning the Silver Medal for Military Valour. In the first post-war period, he was assigned the unpleasant task of the High Commissioner for supplies: his choice to intervene on the price of bread was excellent, with the "Soleri Law" of 1921. After a short period as Minister of Finance in the Bonomi government, under the Facta government, he was entrusted with the Ministry of War (1 August-31 October 1922). He carefully prepared the measures for the state of siege of the capital during the March on Rome, even if the King later decided not to declare it. Only with the fall of fascism did Soleri revive politically. Wanted by the Nazi Fascists, he fled to Rome, where he lived under a false identity. In June 1944, Prime Minister Bonomi wanted him at the Treasury, and even in that case, he had to intervene in a desperate situation, putting the finances back in order. He picked up exactly where he left off as Supply Commissioner, that is, from the political price of bread. On 23 July 1945, he died, leaving a spiritual testament: "I tell you only one thing: we must all have a common vibration in our hearts: that is, we would all like to be nothing so that this Italy of ours will once again be everything".

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BETWEEN MANIPULATION AND ECHO CHAMBERS

by Antonio Pandolfi

"Between manipulation and echo chambers - The Post-truth" is an article reflecting on the pervasive effect of the variation in the perception of the concept of truth at every level, with particular reference to the consequences regarding deci-

sion-making skills. The notion of "true" in an absolute sense has been tacitly overcome. This is plain to see in the entertainment world, where the ability to distort reality is a skilfully used tool in a game of prizes. As for the language, the neologism of "post-truth" is making its way. Decision-makers have to extricate themselves in a physical and cognitive environment where the line between true and deceptive blurs. Therefore, this paradigm shift requires decision-makers to apply an even greater critical spirit to fully understand objective reality as an indispensable basis for their actions.

54 | WOMEN WEAR UNIFORM

by Anna Maria Isastia

The article traces the parliamentary debates from the first proposal on the establishment of voluntary military service, presented in Parliament 52 years ago by PMs Sullo, Pitzalis and Piscichio, up to the final approval, in 1999, of Law No. 380 of 20 October, which opened the doors of Armed Forces to the female component. Women were admitted to military academies for the first time and directly nominated officers, senior NCOs and short-term volunteers. Here is the story of how the fair sex came to wear the military uniform.

58 | COOPERATION AND DIALOGUE

by Andrea F. Schifeo

The process of enlargement of the Atlantic Alliance, undertaken after the end of the Cold War, is among the topics of recent discussion on the current question of Ukraine. But why are cooperation and dialogue so crucial to the most powerful military alliance in the world? Drawing inspiration from the corporate world, the theory called "co-opetition" describes how, in the contemporary world, most corporate giants can achieve more success by creating effective partnerships. Thus, it is possible to understand why cooperation is also fundamental for NATO and simultaneously affirm that, in an increasingly globalised world characterised by limited resources, partnership models need an increasing definition of cooperation objectives to succeed.

60 | THE FLAGS OF YESTERDAY'S HEROES HANDED OVER TO TODAY'S SOLDIERS

by Andrea Cionci

In September 2022, thirteen war flags of disbanded units, which wrote glorious pages of Italian military history, left the Flag Memorial with due military honours. The ceremony took place in the presence of the Army Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Pietro Serino. The flags were identified thanks to a study carried out by the Army Historical Records Office and were assigned to Commands and Tactical Support Units which traditionally shared membership with the Branch or Specialty of the disbanded units: Infantry, Alpini, Paratroopers, Cavalry and Tank units.

62 | A TESTA ALTA (THE ARMY CALENDAR 2023)

by Andrea Cionci

The new Army Calendar 2023 was presented on 28 September 2022 at the Central Military Library of Palazzo Esercito. It is not just a calendar but an actual editorial work of history - full of photos and texts - which traces the 98 days following the armistice of 8 September 1943, during which the Italian Royal Army was able to react, returning to fight to free its own country. The texts are by the Army Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Pietro Serino, by Prof. Giuseppe Conti, lecturer in Military History and Contemporary History at the University "La Sapienza" in Rome, and by Mr Roberto Olla, journalist of Tg5, populariser of history, with the moderation of Ms Flavia Giacobbe, Director of Formiche.net.

